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POLICIES OF APARTHEID OF THE GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA

Letter dated 18 December 1992 from the Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to attach a copy of a press statement issued by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. R. F. Botha, regarding the resolutions adopted today by the General Assembly concerning South Africa (see annex).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly under the agenda item entitled "Policies of apartheid of the Government of South Africa".

(Signed) V. R. W. STEWARD
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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ANNEX

Press statement containing comments by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of South Africa on the adoption by the General Assembly of the omnibus resolution on South Africa

The Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. R. F. Botha, said today that the omnibus resolution on South Africa adopted by the General Assembly on 18 December 1992 a/ at last reflected the realities of the South African situation. The resolution was broadly in line with the report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations which called upon all parties to combat violence and to cooperate, he said.

Responding to media inquiries, he commented further:

"The South African Government welcomes the call upon all signatories of the National Peace Accord to recommit themselves to the process of peaceful change by fully and effectively implementing its provisions and by cooperating with each other to that end. In the resolution, it is noted that recognition is also given to recent agreements aimed at removing obstacles to resuming negotiations as well as acknowledging with satisfaction the release of political prisoners. In particular, the Safeguards Agreement between the International Atomic Energy Agency and South Africa of 16 September 1991 is welcomed.

"The resolution contains a few references to outdated practices. The main thrust, however, acknowledges that apartheid is gone and that a new era awaits South Africa, and urges all parties to play a constructive role in bringing about peace, stability and progress. This development is welcomed.

"The South African Government commends the Secretary-General for his comprehensive and active efforts to facilitate the peace process in South Africa."

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a/ Resolution 47/116.